

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 SSC-01 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /128 W

----- 083690

R 131525Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8664

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK

SUBJECT: HEATH NAMES HIS SHADOW CABINET

1. EDWARD HEATH HAS ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF SHADOW CABINET APPOINTMENTS (PREVIOUS POSITIONS IN PARENTHESES).

LEADER: MR. HEATH, 57

FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS AND EUROPE: SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME, 70 (FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY); ASSISTED BY MR. GEOFFREY RIPPON, 49 (ENVIRONMENT

EMPLOYMENT: MR. WILLIAM WHITELAW, 55 (EMPLOYMENT

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TREASURY AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS: MR. ROBERT CARR, 57

(HOME SECRETARY); ASSISTED BY MR. MAURICE MACMILLAN, 52 (PAYMASTER GENERAL).

HOME AFFAIRS: MR. JAMES PRIOR, 46 (LEADER OF THE COMMONS).

ENVIRONMENT: MRS. MARGARET THATCHER, 48 (SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION).

INDUSTRY, TRADE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS: MR. PETER WALKER, 4L (SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY).

WALES: MR. PETER THOMAS, 53 (SECRETARY FOR WALES).

AGRICULTURE AND NORTHERN IRELAND: MR. FRANCIS PYM, 52 (NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY).

DEFENSE: MR. IAN GILMOUR, 47 (DEFENSE SECRETARY).

SOCIAL SERVICES: SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, 47 (MINISTER FOR TRADE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS).

ENERGY: MR. PATRICK JENKIN, 47 (MINISTER FOR ENERGY).

SCOTLAND: MR. ALICK BUCHANAN-SMITH, 4L (PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, SCOTTISH OFFICE).

EDUCATION: MR. WILLIAM VAN STRAUBENZEE, 49 (MINISTER OF STATE, NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE).

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, LORDS: LORD WINDLESHAM, 42 (LEADER OF THE LORDS).

CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY: LORD CARRINGTON, 54 (CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY AND SECRETARY FOR ENERGY).

WITHOUT SPECIFIC DUTIES: LORD HAILSHAM, 66 (LORD CHANCELLOR); MR. ANTHONY BARBER, 53 (CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER); SIR KEITH JOSEPH, 56 (SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES).

2. COMMENT. DESPITE SOME SHUFFLING OF POSITIONS, THE MAKEUP OF THE NEW CONSERVATIVE FRONT BENCH TEAM OFFERS NO MAJOR SURPRISES. SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME STAYS ON IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HIS POLITICAL PRESTIGE AND POPULARITY REMAIN HIGH AND HE IS CONSIDERED TOO GREAT AN ASSET TO BE DISPENSED WITH BY A CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION. GEOFFREY RIPPON, WHO HANDLED THE FINAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR BRITAIN'S ENTRY INTO THE EC, WILL HAVE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR "SHADOWING" LABOR'S ATTEMPTS TO "RENEGOTIATE" THE TERMS OF ENTRY. ANTHONY BARBER WOULD HAVE CONTINUED TO SERVE AS CHANCELLOR IN A TORY GOVERNMENT, BUT HAD MADE IT CLEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR SOME TIME THAT HE WANTED TO GET OUT OF ACTIVE POLITICS. HE IS EXPECTED TO DEVOTE HIS TIME IN THE COMING MONTHS TO TIGHTENING UP THE PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN KEY MARGINAL CONSTITUENCIES. KEITH JOSEPH WILL REMAIN IN THE CABINET, BUT WITHOUT A SPECIFIC PORTFOLIO. A VERY SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL SERVICES MINISTER, HE WAS KNOWN TO WANT A CHANGE. IT WAS RUMORED HE WOULD BE GIVEN THE SHADOW EMPLOYMENT BRIEF, BUT HEATH MUST HAVE DECIDED THAT HE

COULD NOT DO WITHOUT WILLIE WHITEHEAD IN THAT POSITION.
JOSEPH MAY BE ASKED TO TAKE ON JOB OF REVAMPING PARTY'S
POST ELECTION GENERAL STRATEGY. THE MOVE OF MARGARET
THATCHER FROM EDUCATION TO ENVIRONMENT REPRESENTS A
PROMOTION FOR A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE MEMBER OF THE PREVIOUS
GOVERNMENT AND GEOFFREY HOWE'S PROMOTION TO SOCIAL
SERVICES REPRESENTS ANOTHER STEP UP THE LADDER OF SUCCESS
FOR ONE OF THE MOST ABLE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE SHADOW
CABINET.
SOHM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, SHADOW CABINET
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba2
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON03181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740347/aaaabscz.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba2
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 29 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2002 by golinofr>; APPROVED <07 JUN 2005 by powellba2>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HEATH NAMES HIS SHADOW CABINET
TAGS: PINT, UK, (DOUGLAS-HOME, ALEC), (CARR, ROBERT), (PRIOR, JAMES), (THATCHER, MARGARET), (GILMOUR, IAN), (JENKIN, PATRICK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005